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A. S. WATSON &amp; Co., Ltd.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

Hongkong, 29th October, 1888.

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Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and

not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied

by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for

publication, but as evidence of good faith.

While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always

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English newspaper published in the Far East, and is therefore the

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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to the Hongkong Telegraph are respectfully

reminded that all Subscriptions are payable in advance.

DEATH.

On Wednesday, the 5th inst., JAMES MADISON

SCUDDER, of Brooklyn, N.Y., in the 42nd year of

his age.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1888.

The stoppage of Chinese emigration to

American and Australian ports may be

appropriately considered, under existing

circumstances, to be China's second

sorrow. As a question of political economy,

it is of unsurpassable magnitude. For years

past the over-population of vast Cathay has

had two important outlets, and emigration

has fully repaid its labour-seeking classes

whilst it has relieved the empire of undesirable

multitudes of destitute men. The

sudden blocking of these outlets will be

apt to act on the masses in exactly the

same way as the Yellow River, by over-

flowing its banks, submerges and desolates

the whole country around with the abundance

of its waters. There is nothing more

dangerous to the internal order and

permanent peace of a State than a

sudden inundation of population, and this

danger is what the stoppage of Chinese

emigration will very soon bring about in

the Middle Kingdom. We should not be

surprised to hear of a new Taiping

rebellion, or some other kindred popular

rising taking place in the otherwise

peaceful country, if some new outlet is

not quickly found for the immense over-

growth of China's teeming millions. The

Malthusian theory would seem to have

a fearful application in the Celestial

Empire. If in European countries the

population doubles itself in twenty-five

years, it may very safely be said that it

increases threefold in China during the

same period. We need not be at a loss

to understand by what physiological law

China is so procreative; it has been said that

the lower the animal organisms, the more

procreative they are. This is an hypothesis

rather than a law; for we know how poorly

procreative men in a state of savagery are.

It may be assumed with a certain amount

of probability that China's procreancy is

the direct result of a few well under-

stood causes—vegetable and farinaceous

foods, a comparative absence of stimulants,

special climatic conditions, polygamy,

and, above all, an undeveloped and

untaxed nervous system. Cerebral life

being a powerful absorbent of animal

vitality, it has been said, and to a certain

extent demonstrated, that a highly de-

veloped mental organisation is incompatible

with vast procreative powers in both sexes,

and we think herein lies the chief secret

of China's growth. The fact, moreover,

that an immense surplus of population

will henceforward go on increasing, and

spreading itself on the country for want of

emigration, is plain and palpable, and it is

incumbent on China's statesmen to devise

adequate measures to employ these masses, since they cannot be got rid of. We have often maintained that China possessed sufficient mineral resources, trade, agriculture and industries, which if developed, by the introduction of machinery, would be more than sufficient to afford employment and means of livelihood to its vast population. Not a single inhabitant in the country would be under the necessity of emigrating in search of labour were China's resources properly explored. The construction of railways, the further development of river navigation, the encouragement of textile industries, and the formation of a properly constituted army and navy ought to absorb nearly the whole of China's available labour. It only rests with the statesmen of this peculiarly exclusive country to sanction the extension of all engineering industries, and to allow skilled foreigners to train the native masses for a few years. The vast empire which is crushed with so much population and poverty would in the course of a decade or two probably be the most advanced and the wealthiest country in Asia.

## TELEGRAMS.

(Ruter.)

## GREAT BRITAIN IN EGYPT.

LONDON, December 3rd.

A long debate has taken place in the House of Commons on the situation in Suakin, Mr. Morley advocating the abandonment of that place. In reply the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that we would not abandon the people to the mercy of the Arabs. The motion was rejected by a majority of 35 votes.

(From Straits Times.)

FRANCE.

PARIS, November 26th.

Party animosity in France, especially between the Boulangists and the Republicans, is becoming so serious as to cause uneasiness.

## THE SUAKIN TROUBLE.

LONDON, November 26th.

A British regiment returning from India has been stopped at Suakin to assist in repelling the rebels.

## THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Sir Charles Warren has been replaced by Mr. James Monro, lately Assistant Commissioner.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A MEETING of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. A report will appear to-morrow.

LIEUT.-GENERAL Cameron will return from his visit to the Straits Settlements in the French mail steamer *Natal*.

A GERMAN statistician figures up that England has caused the death of 50,000,000 people and has wrought \$10,000,000,000 worth of destruction.

WE read in a Japanese paper that the wife of the chief priest of the Saikoji Temple of the Jodo sect, at Ochibatamura, Osumigori, Soshu, gave birth lately to three daughters.

WE would remind our readers that Mr. H.M. Imano takes his benefit at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, this evening, when will be produced "The Rose of Auvergne," two acts of "Bohemian Girl" and one act of "Mariana."

OUR Amoy correspondent writes:—The British barque *Sea Swallow* arrived here from Newchwang on the 27th ult., having made the remarkably fast passage of 6 days 18 hours. She reports that while crossing the bar at Newchwang the second mate fell from aloft, and it is feared his left thigh is broken. On arrival at Amoy the injured man was at once conveyed to the hospital.

At the Police Court this morning the Opium Farmer was put in an awkward position. A man had been caught by the police smuggling 200 half-balls of opium across the water, with opium to the value of about \$500, sticking to the sides. The Opium Farmer wanted to get them—looked, indeed, as if he had known something about them before the Police, and Mr. Spooner was deputed to get them. He valued the lot at \$40, but Sergeant Harkin offered to buy them for \$400, so the Farmer's representative sat tight. The case was adjourned till Monday.

WHEN Mrs. Langtry was in Paris recently the presence also of one England's most famous beauties, Lady de Grey, formerly Gladys, Countess of Londale, gave rise to a little comparison between them. The Parisians seemed to think that Mrs. Langtry was not so beautiful as when she was a trifle more slight, and they were inclined to give the apple to Lady de Grey. The probability is, though, that with the world for judges, Mrs. Langtry would be considered the more beautiful woman. Mrs. Langtry has settled with Robert Buchanan the details of the new play he is to write for her, and which is to be ready for production by January.

An interesting point is noted by the Japanese native paper *Nipponjin*, namely, that the Chinese residing in Japan have always made themselves conspicuous by their failure to evince any practical sympathy with Japanese sufferers in times of calamity. The Japanese in China and Japan contributed for the relief of sufferers in China at a period of famine, but neither when Osaka was devastated by floods, nor at the time of the *Normanton* catastrophe, nor on the occasion of the Bandalan eruption, did the Chinese at the Open Ports stretch forth a helping hand. All the other nationalities contributed more or less, but the Chinese held steadily aloof. This strange callousness or want of generous charity does not help to bring about that close union which the *Nipponjin* earnestly advocates between the two empires.

THE Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. courteously informs us that the steamship *Parkhurst*, with the next English mail, left Singapore for this port at 8 a.m. to-day.

A REGULAR meeting of St. John Lodge, No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Thursday, the 13th inst., at 8 for 8.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

MORMON Suits (who has just been accepted)—And now can I see you—your—? Young Lady (shyly)—My father, Mr. Brigham? Mormon Suits—No. Your sister, darling; and then I can see your father about you both.

It will doubtless interest our lady readers, and it tickles us amazingly, to read that Paris now sends out stockings of tinted lace in Duchesse or Chantilly patterns, to be worn over spun-silk hose of warm flesh color, and to accompany Roman sandals of bronze with a narrow strap held over the instep by a golden or jewelled clasp.

An ally of Bismarck in maintaining that Emperor Frederick's alleged diary is fictitious turns up in the person of the ex-Empress Eugenie. She declares that she has important papers in her possession which prove the entire falsity of the writing attributed to Frederick that Napoleon wanted to engage in an alliance with Germany against England.

WITH reference to the East Borneo Planting Company, we are informed that the Agents here have received news from the Acting Manager of the Company's Estate to the effect that work was going on as well as possible, that the jungle cutting and clearing was going on well, nearly one thousand fathoms of road have been completed and the fields for 1889 and 1890 laid out.

At the Police court this morning a turnkey at the Gaol, named Charles McKay, was summoned for assaulting a Chinese prisoner. Major-General Gordon appeared, and with difficulty got Mr. Pollock to understand that the case was not one to be tried departmentally. McKay, who denied the assault, was alleged to have struck a prisoner in the tailor's shop, and was dismissed the same day. He now desired the case to be investigated. The case was adjourned.

A MAGIC-LANTERN entertainment was given at the Sailors' Home last night, to a large audience, by Mr. Yam, of the Naval Yard. The Rev. A. B. Goldsmith presided. The scenes depicted were illustrative of the veracious history of Robinson Crusoe, including instantaneous photographs of Robinson, his dog, Friday's aunt, &c. A cast of the famous footprint was exhibited with great interest. A number of English views were also exhibited, and altogether the display was very interesting.

SAYS the *Hyogo News*—It appears likely that the foundation for the statement published by the *Times* respecting a Russian protectorate of Korea was the treaty of commerce concluded recently between those countries. This treaty has just been reproduced in the *Tokyo Official Gazette*, and contains, naturally enough, nothing whatever on the subject of a protectorate, but it is by no means improbable that in addition to the commercial compact there may also be a secret arrangement having virtually the effect of such a union as the *Times* declares has been already made. But if the negotiations were merely a trade matter, other countries having treaties with the Peninsular Kingdom can claim like privileges with Russia under the "favoured nation" clauses in those documents.

THE Customs authorities seem to be determined to annex the Mosquito fleet of the Colony. Yesterday a revenue cruiser seized the *Wing Kwai*, a launch belonging to Mr. Gee Woo, of Tang Mine Lane, whilst she was towing a passenger-junk past Mira Bay from Tamsui to Hongkong. Later on in the day another cruiser, which had been waiting in the same locality for some time, stopped the launch *Yau Yin*, belonging to Mr. Wa Kee, off Ko Tau, an hour and a half from Mira Bay. She also was towing a passenger-junk from the same direction. The *Wing Kwai* being a fast boat was steamed to Canton, but the other launch was taken to water. They were seen to pass Lamma Island yesterday, evidently keeping well clear of British waters.

At a regular lodge of Star of Southern China, No. 2013, E.C., Canton, held on the 1st inst., Bro. L. A. Bywater was elected W. M. for the ensuing year, Bro. B. P. Karanjia Treasurer, and Bro. E. Jorus Tyler. The following is the complete list of office-bearers:—

W.M. .... W. Bro. L. A. Bywater.  
I.P.M. .... " Francis W. White.  
S.W. .... Bro. M. Mackenzie.  
J.W. .... " G. A. Meyer.  
Treasurer .... " B. P. Karanjia.  
Sec. .... " A. J. Duncan.  
S.D. .... " Paul Teichert.  
D.C. .... " E. E. W. Kretschmar.  
Steward .... " B. Jorus (acting).  
I.G. .... " W. J. Adams.  
Tyler .... " B. Jorus.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun*, we read in the *Japan Mail*, gives currency to a rumour that the Ministry are favourable to a proposal to abolish export duties, with the view of permitting Japanese products to find their way unobstructed into the markets of the world, and of encouraging home industries and manufactures. The question indeed, says the *Yomiuri*, has already, we believe, been considered in the Cabinet, and though we have no means of obtaining information as to the action taken, we understand that it is not intended to carry through a sweeping measure, but simply to remove the burden on fancy articles—exclusive of course of such staples as silk, tea, camphor, &c.—the impression being that any step of an absolute nature would to some extent involve questions of an international character, involving as it must do the interests of other countries. The bill enacted on the Customs revenue by the partial course above alluded to, is estimated at not more than 500,000 yen. It seems to say, says the *Yomiuri*, the Senate will not throw any obstacles in the way of its being carried out, and we may fairly hope to see at no distant date the products of Japan in active competition with the commodities of other countries.

MESSRS. Adamson, Bell & Co. inform us that the "Shire" Line steamship *Marionethshire*, from London, &c., left Singapore yesterday for this port.

A CHINAMAN got three months this morning for stealing the earrings of a very pretty young lady who had indiscreetly let him stay in her boudoir in Hollywood Road.

It is now authoritatively announced that in consequence of the insufficient amount subscribed, the proposed Singapore Hotel Company scheme has been abandoned. It is suggested that the project may be revived on somewhat less ambitious lines.

THE Chinaman is rapidly getting civilised. Three of him were fined this morning for having got drunk;—one had actually trespassed on the Briton's prerogative to "lick a peccemman, and got fined fifty cents extra. Two days ago a Chinaman—the first on record, we believe—got so drunk he lay in the gutter, dead-on. Now, missionaries, come along and get to work.

THIS week's number of the *Macao Independent* contains, as is usual with that nondescript organ of an extremely vulgar people, a few low-bred aspersions on the journalism of this colony and on the correspondent who is alleged to have supplied us with the news regarding Tong-king-sin's son. Mr. Pacheco, the well-known advocate, has also thought fit to air his protest, originally published in the priestly rag—the *Vos do Canto*.

ADVICES from Manila report that the British bark *Tamar E. Marshall*, en route from Iloilo to Boston with a full cargo of sugar, struck on Wright's reef, off the Palawan Islands, on the afternoon of the 23rd ult., but got off eleven hours later after jettisoning part of her cargo. The Captain then shaped his course for Singapore, but the vessel commencing to heel over, was beached at Batabad, and is reported lying with eight feet of water in her hold, and her false keel and cutwater gone.

THE steamship *Palnan*, which arrived here this morning, had a rough twelve hours on her return passage from Japan. Shortly after dropping the pilot bad weather set in, and on the morning of the 20th ult. a stiff north wind accompanied a threatening sky. The barometer fell, and by breakfast time a gale was blowing, and she was continually shipping seas all over. The gale got heavier towards noon, and the steamer labored heavily in the confused seas. Her first casualty was losing her starboard life-boat, which just missed "copping" Mr. Weston, the third mate, to use his expressive phraseology, and also cleared a lot of bunker coal out of the alley-ways. At noon a second, unusually heavy surge swept the deck gear away and smashed most of the companion ladders, creating a general desire on the part of everybody to remember little prayers. Things got so bad towards dusk that the ship's head was turned, and she ran before the wind for a few hours, when she was hoisted to, but she kept shipping a lot of water. She rode easier, but the aft wheel furniture carried away even then, and a tremendous green sea stove the port life-boat in, and took the gig away. The main hatch washed about for a time, and while being secured a seaman got half-drowned and three quarters suffocated, although he ultimately recovered. The wind ultimately changed a few points, and the weather moderated, and she came on all right.

## THE REGATTA DEADLOCK.

The foreign gentleman who wrote the lengthy communication on "The Regatta Deadlock," which appeared in this Journal on Saturday last, assumes to represent the views not only of the German and Danish international crews, but also of the Irish and a considerable proportion of the English rowers of the V.R.C. Admitting "Suidrog's" pretensions to speak on behalf of all these important elements, I regret that I cannot compliment the dissenting members on their selection of an advocate. "Suidrog" displays wonderful facility in spinning a very lengthy yarn—in fact he quite loses himself in a shower of meaningless expressions—but the sum total of his argument clearly enough shows the utterly frivolous and untenable character of the objections raised against the new boat built by the English crew.

Starting on altogether false premises, the champion of the Danes and Germans—and the Irish stroke after stroke—hopelessly mixed up, "naturally enough" arrives at logical conclusions. He writes as a foreigner, and I can only imagine that he regards the question through spectacles of a purely foreign manufacture, arrogating to himself and colleagues rights and privileges which are altogether beyond reason. Furthermore, his references to the composition of the English International crew—a matter which has nothing whatever to do with the matter in dispute and is certainly no business of either German or Dane—are not merely in bad taste, but closely border on the impertinent. I do not intend to wade through "Suidrog's" long letter, as most of it is mere verbiage, having not the remotest connection with the undignified and unpromisingly squabble which promises to so prejudicially affect rowing interests in the colony; but will content myself with briefly criticising two or three paragraphs which are practical admissions that the conduct of the Danish and German oarsmen is altogether unwarrantable.

(The Victoria Recreation Club, like all other similar institutions, is governed by rules and precedents. When a question arises which is not specially provided for by regulation, then precedent comes in. This is the invariable custom everywhere. From the House of Commons down to the most insignificant local society of whatever description, precedent is the established principle. Now, it is admitted that in past years, members of the V.R.C. have been in the habit of building and towing in their own private boats, and so, the precedent is established that they may do so again.

urged against the practice. There is nothing in the Club rules to forbid it, and as we have just shown, precedent is all in its favor. Where then is a just cause for the alleged grievance of the "four Brits," five Germans, and four Danes? "Suidrog" certainly does not show it—on the contrary he, probably without knowing it, proves exactly the opposite.

As "Suidrog" truthfully remarks, the question lies in a nutshell. And here is the question in his own words:—"We don't know anything about the points of the boat, whether better, or worse, or equal." After this admission, is there really any use in further argument? Had "Suidrog" shown that the new boat would give the English crew a material advantage over crews rowing in Club boats, it is conceivable that a protest would have been entertained by the Committee. But no such allegation is made; the would-be obstructionists are merely the victims of prejudice; to use the language of their no doubt well meaning advocate, "they have a strong repugnance against her." And it is for such a paltry reason that the Germans and Danes and the Irish stroke "do not desire to row against the *Mayblissom* in any race." It may be very safely predicted that these worthy sportsmen will be permitted to indulge in their desire, as the Committee of the V.R.C. cannot possibly stultify themselves by tamely submitting to what is nothing more nor less than coercion. If the Germans and Danes (and their Irish supporters) have decided not to row against the English crew in their new craft, it would be very much better and much more sportsmanlike that they should at once withdraw their names from the Regatta programme, so that the Committee might be enabled to make whatever necessary arrangements might be deemed desirable. As the *swifter in modo* policy does not appear to suit these gentlemen, they should be made to recognise that the Committee are quite prepared to adopt the *fortiter in re*. As "Suidrog" truly remarks, the withdrawal of this "council of ten" should not count for much.

"Suidrog," the Irish stroke, and the other foreign oarsmen are, of course, allowed to have their own opinions as to what may constitute "fair sport"; but they will not be allowed, without any just cause that has yet been made apparent, to dictate terms to the Club committee, nor to ride roughshod over public opinion. The line they have adopted is simply indefensible, and I cannot think that their cause has been bettered by the wholesale insinuations against the *bond fides* of their opponents indulged in by their champion, "Suidrog."

A few words more and I have done. "Suidrog" names a crew—Hayllar, Denison, E. Shepherd, and F. Shepherd—whom he defies any other international combination to defeat. This is altogether apart from the real matter in dispute, but it is something tangible—it is a descent from the realm of fancy into the wide field of material fact. I am willing to accept "Suidrog's" defiance on fair conditions. If the present English International crew will row-taking in another man to allow Mr. E. Shepherd to make up the other combination—I am prepared to wager "Suidrog" any sum from five hundred to five thousand dollars on the issue.

AN OLD SPORTSMAN.  
Hongkong, 5th December, 1888.

## THE LOOTING OF THE "PAOTAH."

## THE PRINCIPAL LOOTERS SEVERELY PUNISHED.

The *Peking Gazette* of the 14th ult. contains the following report:—

Last March, the Governor of Shantung presented a long report concerning the plundering of the steamer *Paotah* near the Shantung Promontory in the course of which he stated that the three principal prisoners in the case had been sent to the provincial capital to be there dealt with. He now addresses a fresh memorial, giving a brief history of the affair, and reporting for approval the sentences which he has passed on the said prisoners. The names of the three men are Chou Jen-feng, a chief Coast guard, and his younger brother Wang Chiu. When the *Paotah* went ashore on the Promontory, the Magistrate of the District came down to the place and summoned Chou Jen-feng and Wang Yung-hiang to give assistance. The passengers on the steamer were rescued in boats, and a good deal of property was salvaged; but after two days Chou Jen-feng and Wang Yung-hiang, who thought the vessel would sink immediately, went on board and began to plunder the remainder of the cargo, much of which consisted of copper cash belonging to the Government. In doing this they were accompanied by one Tai Shun, who afterwards absconded, and a large number of people from the surrounding villages.

The Magistrate, being unable to maintain order and prevent the pillage, wrote to a military graduate in the District City to engage a couple of hundred men as soldiers, provide them with uniforms from the Yamen, and come to his assistance at once. When the graduate had started, and his men, he heard by the way, that the *Paotah* was already broken up by the sea and the villages had dispersed with their plunder. He therefore sent away a larger portion of his men, and came with only a small party of five and twenty. When he arrived at a spot called Dragon's Braid Island, he was met by a message from the Magistrate, in compliance with which he halted. Meanwhile Tai Shun thought that an attempt would be made to recover the plunder. He therefore, with the aid of the three prisoners, assembled a large body of men from the surrounding villages, and went with them to drive the graduate and his party away. The graduate tried to arrest some of the crowd, but he was attacked with knives and daggers, and wounded in half a dozen places. One of the three prisoners was present, encouraging the crowd, but did not actually take part in the affray. The Magistrate came, up soon afterwards and carried the graduate into a house. Here they were besieged by Tai Shun and his crowd, who would not let the Magistrate go, and even wished to kill the graduate to prevent his paying them out some future time. Finally the Magistrate was compelled by the prisoners to sign a document, in which he promised that no proceedings should be taken against any one for what had happened, upon which he and his companions were released. The Magistrate as soon as he returned to the town reported to his superiors what had occurred. Commissioners, aided by troops and men-at-arms, were sent to the place to deal with the affair, and the three prisoners, as well as a number of smaller offenders, were secured.

Jen-feng has died in prison of a disease contracted before his arrest. There is therefore no need to take further notice of him. The other two men are condemned to penal servitude on a frontier distant more than four thousand li, and to branding on both cheeks, the principal offence of which they are convicted being, that of encouraging others who took part in a fatal affray, but not having actually struck a blow themselves or having been the original instigators of the riot. This sentence is passed on the supposition that the riot was the work of Tai Shun in the first instance; but as it appears that Wang Yung-hiang, when first brought before the court, acknowledged that he was guilty of so doing, it is proposed to retain him in Shantung till Tai Shun be arrested, in order that the two men may be confronted with each other.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

## FOOCHOW.

In Chinese circles it is rumoured that the new Viceroy will act for the Tartar General, who has received an extension of leave previous to taking up his appointment.







